

A line of mountaineers is seen from behind, ascending a steep, snow-covered mountain slope. They are carrying large, bulky gear packs. The scene is set in a high-altitude, snowy environment with a clear sky.

DEATH ZONE

CLEANING MOUNT EVEREST

MARCH 2011



CAST AND CREDITS

Featuring
NAMGYAL SHERPA
CHAKRA KARKI

Directed & Written by
MARINA MARTINS

Produced by
SOPHIA PANDE
MARINA MARTINS

Executive Producers
PRANAYA RAJBHANDARI
SANJIB RAJ BHANDARI
MANGESH LAL SHRESTHA
GAURAV AGRAWAL
SHIVANTH B. PANDÉ

Co-Produced by
P. JAMES KEITEL

WGA Registration: 1484478

90 min | Color | HD | 16:9 | Stereo | Nepal | 2011

LOGLINE

Namgyal and Chakra lead a team of 20 Sherpa climbers into the Death Zone of Mount Everest with a mission to recover two dead bodies and remove thousands of pounds of trash. As they ascend the highest point on Earth, the challenges they face mount into something more dangerous than they ever could have imagined.



SYNOPSIS

Outraged by the number of dead bodies and thousands of pounds of trash on Mount Everest, a multi summiter, Namgyal Sherpa and a journalist, Chakra Karki, created the Extreme Everest Expedition 2010. Their mission was to begin the cleaning of the world's tallest mountain. For the Sherpas, the mountain is a sacred living entity and they are frustrated by its defilement over the last fifty years.

With only local support and as the climbing season nears its close, they begin their extraordinary journey. They brave freezing wind and snow storms, deadly high-altitude sickness, treacherous crevasses and a killer avalanche. With the window for the climbing season closing rapidly, they risk death as Namgyal and his team ascend higher into Everest's "Death Zone." Even when they overcome the impossible odds of reaching and collecting the left-behind items, the logistics of carrying garbage back down the mountain present a serious challenge. It is hard to carry anything down the mountain when you can barely carry your own breath.

Our expedition leader, Namgyal, almost dies trying to extract a dead body – frozen into the icy mountain slopes. It is difficult to imagine how they will return alive from this unforgiving place.



NAMGYAL SHERPA:

Everest is a goddess. Everest is a Mother of the World, Mother of the Earth. So we must respect Everest.

If we keep clean the mountain, lots of people can drink fresh, pure, water. I want to say to the world, not only Nepal, please keep mountains clean.

Above 8,000 meters, people cannot climb easily because of a lot ropes, a lot of oxygen bottles, a lot of gas canisters and, on the immediate climbing route, dead bodies.

**NAMGYAL SHERPA
TEAM LEADER**



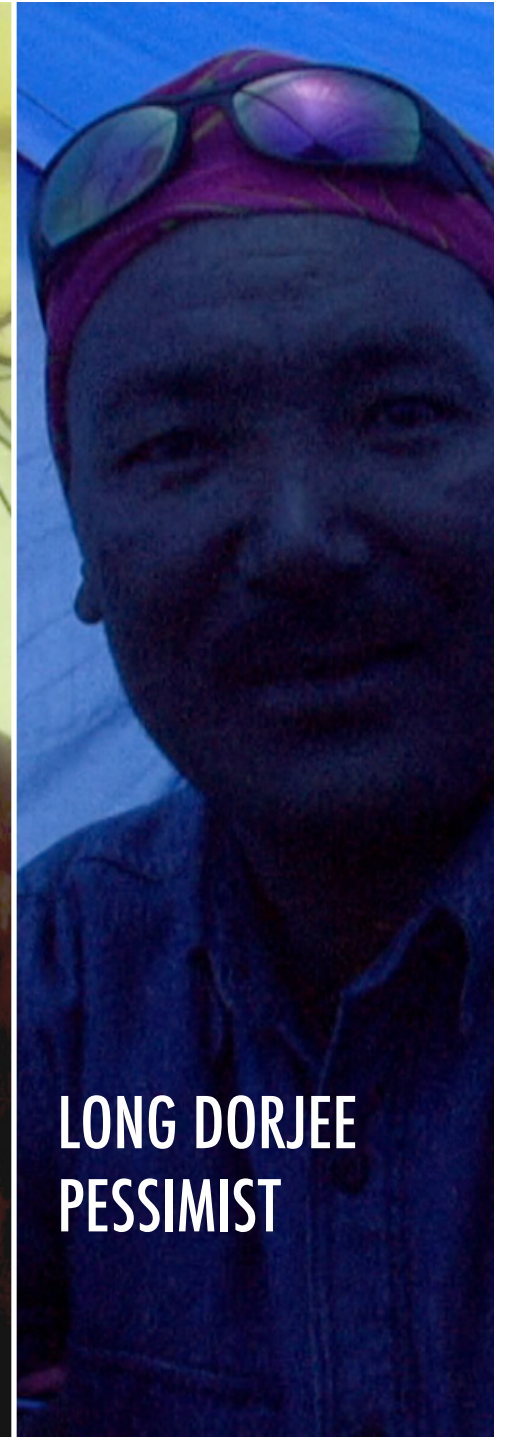
**CHAKRA KARKI
JOURNALIST &
PROJECT
COORDINATOR**



**PURNA SHERPA
CAMERAMAN**



**LONG DORJEE
PESSIMIST**



SELECTED PRESS

"A fascinating study of one man's quest to restore his homeland."

- Heather Kenyon, Head of Development, Starz Animation

"DEATH ZONE is a film that anyone who has any interest in our environment must see."

- Mark Myers, Executive Producer, Citizenskull Productions

"DEATH ZONE takes us on a breathless journey to the real world of mountain climbing. People die up there. And even when they do come back, they leave more than footprints."

- Mike Conley, Author

"Dramatic and bold. Taught me about a crisis that I had never known existed. Their cause is one that all should take notice of and take the time to learn about."

- Nathalie Torres, Sophomore, Pasadena Community College

"Capturing the ascent with body cameras mounted on the Sherpa climbers is a captivating and dramatic piece of cinéma vérité."

- Edwin Marshall, Director, Harbor Light Entertainment



DIRECTOR STATEMENT

In April of 2010, I flew to Kathmandu, Nepal to meet two men, mountaineer Namgyal Sherpa and journalist Chakra Karki. I asked them why they had initiated a life-threatening mission, along with a team of 20 other Sherpas, to clean up other people's garbage in the Death Zone of Mount Everest.

I was struck by the simplicity of their answer.

They believed that if they were successful in cleaning in the Death Zone, future climbers would not continue to defile what they believe is a living goddess, Chomolungma, Mother Goddess of the Earth, who resides on Mount Everest. They also hoped that they might be an example to bring forth awareness of what mankind is doing to the planet. The most compelling moment for me was this one statement from Namgyal, "We don't care whose garbage it is, or who is responsible. It needs to be done, we can do it, so let us do it." I was hooked.

In three short weeks, we scrambled to find a way to record this mission in the form of a documentary. In early May 2010, the Sherpas began their journey armed with their courageous spirits and 6 cameras to self-document this quest. I did not really know how much of the story I had envisioned would be captured by these amateur photographers but I sent them off with ambitious guidelines and shot lists, hoping for the best. What I found a month later was wondrous. They had captured extraordinary footage of Mount Everest, unique POV's of this magnificent landscape, but within the stunning vista's, I found the story of a beautiful people, who simply, honestly and courageously did what had to be done - with no guile, no artifice, no ego. This was the narrative I was driven to share. It is a story of unselfishness and dedication to the mountain, their land, and by extension to the planet. It is a story that every man woman and child can and should relate to.

Everest is a world icon - the outrage that people express when they see this film is an indication that awareness will bring about action and that we can make a difference.

This film is a catalyst - the journey of Namgyal, Chakra and 20 other Sherpas is an honest evaluation of *what has been done* - by man, an example of *what can be done* - by all of us and an inspiration for *what must be done* - by each of us, to prevent humanity from contaminating the planet and jeopardizing our very existence.



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THE
TRAILER**

deathzonemovie.com





A NEPALESE LANGUAGE FILM

At its inception, the idea for this film was a seed that was planted into the hearts of Namgyal and Chakra. Both are Nepalese born. They made a vow to find a way for the Nepalese community to nurture and grow this project. Mount Everest is a world icon, but it is their mountain Goddess and it was time for the local community to take responsibility. As Chakra put it, so much of the change and action in Nepal is initiated, funded and driven by the international community. This project would be different.

It took these two men many months of walking the streets and sitting outside auspicious institutional doors before they finally found support in the local business community. Mr. Privithi Pande, Chairman of the Nepal Investment Bank and prominent art collector, showed passion for their cause and became the cornerstone of a local sponsorship raise that propelled the project into action.

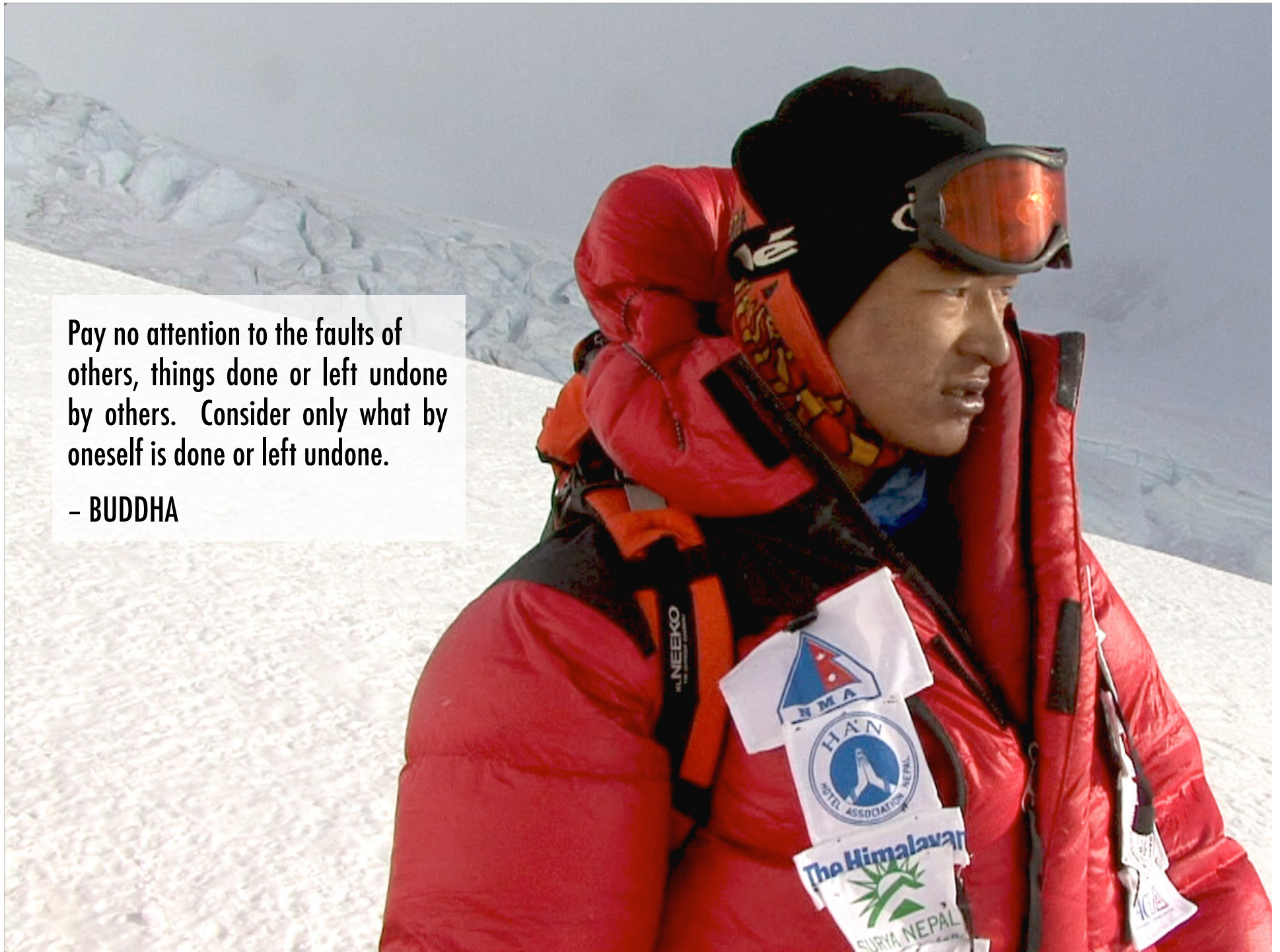
To ensure a viable project, a non-Nepalese writer/director was brought in to find a story that could be told and to work with a young, New York trained Nepali producer, to make the documentary. The funding for the film was raised by a group of five young and passionate Nepali businessmen, who have been an integral part of the process.

The music for the soundtrack was recorded in Nepal; local instruments like the Sarange, Bansuri and Tabla were woven into native cues, some with a fresh contemporary voice. The wonderful Ani, a female monk, enhanced the music with her mystical chants.

The film is the first for the new Top of the World Productions and the Nepali Film Initiative that is be funded with a portion of the proceeds of this film. The bulk of the producer profits will go to the non-profit Friends of Save the Himalayas, to continue the work of cleaning Mount Everest and the other peaks in the Himalayan range.

Pay no attention to the faults of others, things done or left undone by others. Consider only what by oneself is done or left undone.

- BUDDHA



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Top of the World Productions

Friends of Save the Himalayas

Nepal Film Initiative

deathzonemovie.com

The makers of DEATH ZONE are developing efforts to restore Everest. Keeping the Earth clean starts at the top and ends with each of us. We are building awareness and participation through education and action campaigns.



Kit created in the Good Ninja Lab (inquiries: [goodninja@gmail.com](mailto:goodninja@goodninja.com))